

SchoolMealsNews Bulletin 1819-16

Announcements from the WI DPI School Nutrition Team (SNT)

April 9, 2019

- [Updates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
- [Updates from the Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\) School Nutrition Team](#)

Updates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool and Paid Lunch Equity Flexibility

USDA planned to distribute guidance memorandums by the end of March and obviously, that hasn't happened. It is their understanding that the guidance is ready to go out but just needs to clear one final hurdle. It is anticipated that both the updated PLE tool for school year (SY) 2019-20 and the memo detailing the PLE flexibility should be approved to come out this week. Thanks for your patience.

Updates from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team

USDA 2019 Team Nutrition Training Grant for Innovative State Training Programs

The Wisconsin DPI School Nutrition Team is applying for the USDA 2019 Team Nutrition Training Grant for Innovative State Training Programs. In order to obtain funding, the SNT must collect letters of support from School Food Authorities (SFAs) interested in training opportunities that will improve school nutrition professionals' knowledge, skills, and self-efficacy related to school meal quality. The SNT's grant proposal seeks to expand the [Goal Oriented Achievement Learning Skills \(GOALS\)](#) Training Certification Program. GOALS provides trainings and resources to equip Wisconsin school nutrition professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to operate a successful school nutrition program. Specifically, this grant proposal focuses

on GOALS courses related to quality meal improvement (<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/goal-oriented-achievement-learning-skills>).

The SNT will offer regional in-person trainings, webinars, and technical assistance to help school nutrition professionals with completing courses needed to obtain GOALS certification. In addition, financial assistance will be available for SFAs to use for travel reimbursement and staff to attend the trainings that will be held as part of the Summer Nutrition Skills Development Courses (commonly known as SNSDC) and implementation of training strategies to improve school meal quality. If your SFA is interested in receiving financial and technical assistance to participate in this training opportunity, please complete the attached letter and place on SFA letterhead. All areas highlighted in red should be completed. Once complete, sign and return via email (DPIFNSTeamNutrition@dpi.wi.gov) or fax (608-267-0363) by **April 26, 2019**.

Please note, completion of this letter does not guarantee funding for your SFA nor does it commit your SFA to participating in any of the related activities. This is only to provide the SNT with an idea of how many schools would be interested in this opportunity.

Questions can be directed to Alicia Dill (alicia.dill@dpi.wi.gov or 608-266-2741) or Kelly Williams (kelly.williams@dpi.wi.gov or 608-267-9120). We appreciate your support!

SY 2019-20 Online Contract Renewal and Notable Changes for the USDA School Nutrition Programs - Action required by June 7, 2019

Schools participating in any combination of the following School Nutrition Programs, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP), and Special Milk Program (SMP), must renew their contracts online each year.

Beginning April 25, you will no longer be able to make online changes to your SY 2018-19 (current SY) contracts. The online portal for SY 2019-20 contract renewal will open on Wednesday, May 1 and remain open until Friday, June 7, 2019. Please make sure you read SNT [School Year 2019-20 Contract Renewal](#) memo for important information.

Small Victories Training

The Spring Small Victories training is open for registration (<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/small-victories>). The featured topic is *Marketing with Diversity*. This interactive, hands-on workshop will review effective marketing strategies geared at increasing meal participation. Creative marketing strategies will be discussed to help raise awareness of the positive opportunities your meal program can provide to students. In addition, the workshop will include ideas and creative ways to market a variety of ethnic options on your menu for students. More details are on the Small Victories flyer. Please join us for a fun night of learning and networking. All classes are 3:45 to 7:00 PM. Dates and locations are:

- May 7, 2019 - Ellsworth Elementary, 445 South Piety Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011
- May 8, 2019 - Northwood School District, N14463, Highway 53, Minong, WI 54859
- May 9, 2019 - Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501
- May 14, 2019 - Fall River School District, 150 Bradley Street, Fall River, WI 53932
- May 15, 2019 - Fennimore High School, 510 7th Street, Fennimore, WI 53510
- May 16, 2019 - Menomonee Falls High School, N80 W14350 Titan Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Carryover and Transfer Period for Students Transitioning from Special Provision Option Schools (CEP and P2)

Special Provision Schools, such as Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Provision 2 (P2), serve all students free meals regardless of individual meal eligibility status. Since SY 2016-17, LEAs have been required to provide up to 30 operating days (or until a new

eligibility determination is made), meals to students who transfer from a CEP or P2 school to a standard counting and claiming school *within the same* LEA.

Starting July 1, 2019, LEAs are required to provide free meals to students who transfer from a Provision school to a non-Provision school in a *different* LEA. SNT has encouraged LEAs to implement this practice since SY 2016-17 to ensure these children do not experience a gap in school meal access or accrue negative balances.

The 30 operating days start the first day the student attends class at the new school. This could occur at any time during the school year. The new LEA may claim these meals at the free rate during this period of time.

CEP and P2 LEAs are encouraged to initiate communication on continuation of benefits with the household and the new school. The new school can validate eligibility from the former CEP LEA by obtaining a copy of the current school year *Wisconsin Schools and Districts Participating in Community Eligibility Provision* list and highlighting the former school's name. This list is updated annually and is available on the [DPI CEP website](#). For a list of Provision 2 schools, contact SNT. The CEP or P2 school should include documentation in the transferring student's file that is forwarded on to the Determining Official at the new school (<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/community-eligibility>).

There are additional resources on the CEP website under the *Monitoring and Claiming* section. There is a chart explaining the requirements of transferring students. Additionally, there is a template letter intended to communicate transfers within the same LEA. However, this document can be modified to meet the needs of different situations, including transfers between LEAs.

[DPI School Nutrition Team Memo: Professional Standards Requirements for School Food Authorities \(SFAs\) that Contract with a Food Service Management Company \(FSMC\)](#)

The final rule “Professional Standard for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” established minimum hiring requirements for FSDs hired after July 1, 2015, and annual training requirements for all school food service staff effective July 1, 2015. The professional standards are intended to ensure that school nutrition program personnel working in the NSLP and SBP have the knowledge and skills to manage and operate the programs effectively and efficiently. Please note that the “Hiring Flexibility Under Professional Standards” final rule effective April 30, 2019, provides some flexibilities to the original rule and more information about those flexibilities will be announced soon.

This memorandum is intended to provide clarification and guidance on how the professional standards requirements apply to SFAs that contract with a FSMC to manage the school meal programs (<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/school-nutrition-team-communication/memos>).